

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 5, after line 3, please insert as follows:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

Page 5, please amend the paragraphs beginning at lines 4-33, to page 6, lines 1-4, as follows:

One embodiment of the invention will now be described. The vessels and apparatus employed in the process are, in sequential order:

Catalyst storage vessel (catalyst carrier): This vessel 2 handles the catalyst as it comes from the catalyst preparation unit. As such, it is thus adapted to the physical state in which the catalyst arrives at the plant before feeding.

Dry catalyst carrier: For catalyst in the dry state, this is a simple vessel 4 designed to an overpressure of a dry inert gas (usually nitrogen 6) to avoid atmospheric contamination of the catalyst. The tank has a cone bottom 8 to facilitate the flow of solid catalyst out of the bottom.

Catalyst day tank: This tank 10 has a cone bottom to allow solid catalyst to flow out the bottom. The tank is usually under dry inert gas overpressure (usually nitrogen) to protect the catalyst from atmospheric contamination. The tank is on load cells 12 so that the contents of the tank can be weighed. The purpose of the tank is to provide gravity feed of the solid catalyst into the feed pot 14, the amount of which can be directly determined by measuring the weight of the day tank before and after discharge.

Catalyst Feed Pot: The catalyst feed pot 14 is a small vessel. Volume can vary significantly but it is typically 5 to 100 litres, more often 20 to 50 litres, and depends

greatly on the properties of the catalyst being fed, the production process and production rate required. This vessel has a cone top 16 and bottom 18: the cone bottom 18 facilitates the flow of catalyst out of the tank. The cone top 16 is designed to maximise filling of the solid catalyst.

Catalyst slurry tank: This tank 20 is a vertical cylindrical tank ~~having~~ having a residence time of approximately 2-5 hours. (~~this~~ This can vary greatly depending on the properties of the catalyst and the properties of the slurry liquid being used). The tank has an agitator 22, which is preferably designed to have a minimum of mechanical impact on the catalyst.

Buffer vessel: This is a small vertical cylindrical tank 24 with a cone bottom 26. The tank has a pressure measurement and level indicator. Its purpose is to mix the slurry from the slurry tank with additional (fresh or recycled) diluent from the diluent vessel 28 before the light slurry is pumped to the reactor 30. It is optionally employed when a catalyst feed pump is used.

Catalyst Feed Pump: This pump is optional; alternatively, an overpressure in the slurry tank can be used to push catalyst into the reactor. The catalyst feed pump is typically a diaphragm pump ($2.5 \text{ m}^3/\text{h}$) with suction inlet on top and discharge on the bottom. Usually the valves have to be spring loaded to ensure that they do not hang open if solid catalyst gets between the valve and the seat.